



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1469

**DATE:** January 6, 2015

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers, Targeted Case Managers, and Department of Human Services Service Workers

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Core Standardized Assessment (CSA) for Health and Disability, Physical Disability or AIDS/HIV Waiver Services

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

The 2013 Health and Human Services Appropriations bill Senate File 446 directed DHS to contract with an independent entity to conduct a stakeholder engagement process and perform the selected core standardized assessments. Telligen, Inc. was the vendor selected to implement the Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS) for persons with intellectual disabilities. Once the assessment tools are selected, Telligen, Inc. will implement core standardized assessments for other populations served by the Iowa Medicaid HCBS waiver programs.

The IME, on behalf of the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP), announces plans to conduct online forum and webinar listening sessions to solicit input from Iowa Medicaid members, their family members, providers, case managers and advocacy groups. A listening session is a meeting in which background information is provided and participants have the opportunity for discussion and to provide feedback to the department on key topics. The purpose of these listening sessions is to solicit input regarding the selection of an appropriate core standardized assessment tool to measure the supports needed for a person seeking services through the Health and Disability, Physical Disability or AIDS/HIV Waivers.

With advice from key stakeholders and advocacy groups, the engagement process for assessment selection feedback has been designed to provide access to persons with disabilities as well as all interested stakeholders. An online [Iowa Medicaid Waiver Assessment Forum](https://csa.telligen.com/)<sup>1</sup> is available for written feedback and questions.

To participate in the forum, follow the instructions for obtaining a login. You will be asked to choose a user name, password and enter a valid email address. Read the background information and enter comments or questions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://csa.telligen.com/>

Online webinars with teleconferences are also planned:

- Wednesday, January 21, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 27, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 28, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Webinar session attendance is limited and pre-registration is required. Registration information is on the [DHS CSA webpage](#)<sup>2</sup>. Background information will be provided at the webinars and participants will be asked to provide feedback regarding important key factors to consider in selecting an assessment tool. The information presented in each webinar will be the same and will be similar to the information available in the Online Forum. Written feedback comments may also be submitted by email to [DHSCoreStandardizedAssessments@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:DHSCoreStandardizedAssessments@dhs.state.ia.us).

Information gathered at the listening sessions, and through written submissions, will be used to inform the selection of an assessment tool or tools for the Health and Disability, Physical Disability and AIDS/HIV Waivers. The department will announce the selection of the assessment tool after the decision has been made.

As the BIP progresses in implementing standardized assessments across other populations served by HCBS Waivers, additional information will be posted on the [DHS CSA webpage](#).

Questions may also be submitted to [DHSCoreStandardizedAssessment@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:DHSCoreStandardizedAssessment@dhs.state.ia.us).

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<sup>2</sup> <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA>